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A True Copy Of Part of that PAPER, WHICH Mr. *Aſhton* left in a Friend's Hands: Together with the LETTER in which he ſent it encloſed.

[*The Paper begins with the Speech already publiſhed, immediately after which he adds,*]

THus much is contained in the Paper that I deſign to leave with the Sheriff.

But being ſuddenly to give up my Accounts to the Searcher of all Hearts, I think it a duty incumbent upon me to impart ſome things farther, which neither the Intereſt nor Iniquity of theſe Times will, I conclude, willingly bear the publication of, and therefore not fit to be inſerted in the Sheriffs Paper.

Some time after the Prince of *Orange*'s Arrival here, when it was expected, that, purſuant to his own Declaration, and the King's Letter to the Convention, an exact Search and Enquiry would have been made into the Birth of the Prince of *Wales*, there was a Scheme drawn up of that whole Matter, and of the Proofs that were then (and are ſtill) ready to be produced, to prove his Royal Highneſs's Legitimacy; but no publick Examination being ever had, and the Violence of the Times, as well as Intereſt of the preſent Goverment, not permitting any private Perſon to move in it, thoſe Papers have ever ſince lain by: But it being now thought adviſable by ſome, to have them printed and publiſhed, and (as at firſt they were deſigned) addreſſed, at their next Meeting, to the Lords and Commons, entreating them to enquire into that weighty Affair, and to call forth, examine, and protect (for who elſe dares to appear) the many Witneſſes to the ſeveral Particulars therein offered to be legally proved, &c.

I was ordered to carry thoſe Papers to the King my Maſter, for his view, that his Leave and Aprpobation might go along with the Deſires of his good Subjects here; and they being taken with me, with ſome other Papers of Accounts, &c. in a ſmall Trunck, amongſt my Linen, and other private things of my own, and not in the Packet, (my Ld. *Preſton* being altogether a ſtranger to the whole proceeding,) by this means fell into the hands of our preſent Governours; who, though they wiſely waved the producing them as Evidence at my Tryal, yet have I juſt Reaſon to believe my greateſt Crimes were contained in them; and I do therefore conclude and hope, that I onely am deſigned to be ſacrificed, who onely knew of them: Nor am I ſurpriſed at it, ſince nothing, I think, can be more prejudicial to ſome Perſons preſent Intereſt, than the expoſing of thoſe Papers to the Publick, which will ſet that pretended Myſtery of Darkneſs in ſo clear a Light, that all Mankind muſt be convinced of his Highneſs's being born of the Queen, and of their Wickedneſs, who have malitiouſly and deſignedly aſſerted that innocent Prince to be an Impoſtor. The Love and Compaſſion that I have for my native Countrey, as well as Charity, obliges me humbly to implore Almighty God to be merciſull to it, and not to charge this great Sin to the publick Account, and

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that ... farther provoke his Juſtice by our wilfully continuing in Erroneous ...take, I beſeech him to put it into the Hearts of the Lords, &c. at their next Meeting, to examine into that whole Matter, and (if before that time this be publiſhed) to enquire after, call for, and, if poſſible, retrieve thoſe Papers that were taken with me; whereby the Obſtinate will moſt certainly be convinced, the Ignorant informed, the Doubtfull confirmed, the Eyes of all opened, and a ſacred moſt important Truth made apparent to the whole World.

What I have next to impart is not leſs material, &c.

[*But I do not think it a proper time to publiſh what follows next; and therefore, according to the Will and Deſire of my dead Friend, expreſſed in his following Letter, 'tis reſerved to a fitter Opportunity; and ſhall now only inſert what he wrote to me relating to Mr.* Ellyot.]

But I muſt not end this Paper till I have done one Act more of Juſtice, as well as Charity, in behalf of my Fellow-Sufferer, Mr. *Elliot*, who was, as I do moſt ſincerely believe, altogether ignorant, not onely of the contents of the Papers, but even of the Papers themſelves, and no way concerned but as a Paſſenger; and yet if Providence had not prevented our being all tried together, as was intended, that innocent Gentleman had moſt certainly ſhared in our Fates; for the Proofs, even at my Tryal, lay ſtronger againſt him than my ſelf; for Captain *Billop* did then upon Oath, (unneceſſarily, I think,) declare him to be much more concerned and importunate than I was, to have the Pacquet thrown over Board; and yet ſingly from my being concerned, and ſpeaking to him on that Subject, a preſumptive Evidence (ſufficient, as it proved, with that Jury to find me guilty upon,) was drawn, that I knew what was contained therein. But I do moſt heartily forgive them, and pray to God, that this poor Gentleman, by gaining of Time, may eſcape better, and that his innocent Blood may not be ſhed: And I hope theſe words of a dying Man (though no legal Proof) may have ſome weight with an impartial, conſcientious Jury, (if ſuch a Jury he can get,) whenever he is brought to his Trial.

John Aſhton.

[*This Paper, &c. came encloſed to me from Mr.* Aſhton, *before his Execution, in the following Letter.*]

Sir,

KNowing your Friendſhip and Fidelity to your, and your onely, as unto ſafe and ſecure (though diſtant) Hands, I recommend the encloſed Papers, what chiefly relates to my ſelf, being the firſt part, I deſign to leave with the Sheriff; nor ſhall I be anxious about his Diſpoſal of it: But the following Paragraphs, that concern the Prince of *Wales*, and —— I beg you to preſerve as Jewels, and publiſh them, either part, or all, (chiefly that about the Prince,) whenever time or occaſion ſeems to permit or require. And as to the fitneſs of either, you may be pleaſed to conſult *A. B.*'s Advice; I doubt not but ſooner or later they will all be uſeful: And that you may the more value them, I do moſt ſolemnly proteſt, I have been as careful in what I have aſſerted for Truth, as if I were now at God's dreadful Tribunal, where I expect ſuddenly to appear, and by his Mercy hope to hear that raviſhing Sound, *Come, ye bleſſed*, &c.

What relates to Mr. *Elliot*, though I deſign to declare as much to ſome, who at his Trial may give it in Evidence, yet I thought it juſt to leave a Record of his Innocency under my Hand.

I have nothing to add, but to requeſt your Prayers, That God, of his infinite Mercy, would ſupport and ſtrengthen me in my laſt Moments, and take to himſelf,

Sir, Yours,

Newgate, January 27. 16$\frac{90}{91}$.

John Aſhton.